Routine To

AIRTEL

10/7/75

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) 1 - Mr. McDonough

MURKIN

ReMEairtel 2/27/75, advising that Federal process was still outstanding in U. S. District Court, Birmingham. The Birmingham Office has advised that the Federal process was dismissed 12/2/71.

The Birmingham Office should submit LHM appropriately showing this dismissal for dissemination to the Civil Rights Division which has already been orally advised. Insure your files show the correct information on this aspect.

1 - SAC, Atlanta (INFO)
1 - SAC, Birmingham (INFO)

EJM:bap (6)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CBS NEWS
A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019
(212) 765-4321

Transcarb
5542

Dep.-A.D. Adm.
Dep.-A.D. Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Admin.
Comp. Syst.
Ext. Affairs
Files & Com.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Inspection
Intell.
Laboratory
Plan. & Eval.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Legal Coun.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

Dear Director Kelley:

September 5, 1975

Acting under the Freedom of Information Act, I request access to the following FBI documents relating to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, April 4, 1968:

1. Bullet comparison photomicrographs of the evidence bullet and the test bullets made by your ballistics expert, Mr. Robert A. Frazier.
2. Results of laboratory examinations of the evidence bullet.
3. Results of the microscopic examination of the windowsill in the bathroom at 422½ Main Street, Memphis, from which the murder weapon was allegedly fired.
4. Photographic enlargements of the dent in the windowsill and of that part of the rifle which allegedly caused the dent.

I have seen your letter to my colleague, Mr. Haley, in response to his request in the matter of George Wallace and realize you are snowed under with FOIA requests. However, I would appreciate your expediting this as much as possible. Our program is scheduled for broadcast this fall.

Sincerely,

Ernest S. Leiser
Senior Producer

REC-48 94-4-925-828

EX 104

Clarence M. Kelley
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
10th and Pennsylvania Aves., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Pertinent to MURKIN

Mr. Gallagher

10/2/75

J. S. Peelman

1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Cochran

MURKIN (44-38861)
WALSHOT (44-52576)

With respect to information which could be the subject of discussion between Dan Rather and the Director concerning assassinations, the attached material is being submitted regarding the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. (MURKIN) and the shooting of Governor George Wallace (WALSHOT).

MURKIN: Our jurisdiction in this case was based on Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code, conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Martin Luther King, Jr., namely the right to travel interstate (King travelled to Memphis to engage in a demonstration scheduled for 4/8/68). He was killed 4/4/68.

James Earl Ray has an appeal pending before the 6th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on his guilty plea in state court for which he was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray in his appeal is claiming conflict of interest on part of his original attorneys resulting in inadequate representation. We have taken the position in this case from the outset that we could not discuss any details of the investigation until all judicial action has been completed.

It is noted that in a letter dated 7/23/75 to Mr. Ernest S. Leiser of CBS news, we advised him "in view of the appeal that is pending in this case, as well as the fact that a Federal civil rights charge remains outstanding against James Earl Ray, it will not be possible for us to furnish details of our investigation of the assassination of Dr. King." Birmingham Office has advised court records show the Federal process was dismissed 12/2/71 because the Department did not reply to motion for dismissal by Ray's attorney. Department did not advise us of the dismissal; however, they may not have been notified by U. S. Magistrate of final dismissal since dismissal was automatic after 10 days of filing of motion if no reply made. Mr. Leiser has been advised orally of dismissal which is being confirmed in writing.

DEPT ATTY STEPHEN HORN

Enclosures
EJM:bap (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

Atty Gen. advised of dismissal of process 10/7/75 EJM
memo, Bly to Adams, 10/17/75

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Rather may bring up the recent comments by Atlanta, Georgia, Public Safety Commissioner Reginald Eaves to the effect that based on information from Robert Byron Watson, additional investigation should be conducted in the King case. We had received the same information from Watson in 1971, and during interview at that time, he admitted it was entirely fabricated. The original information and current information pertaining to Watson, as well as results of recent Atlanta Police Department investigation of Watson's information, which developed no substantiation, has all been furnished to the Civil Rights Division of the Department and no further investigation has been requested. It is not felt the Director should comment on this other than to state that all of the information has been furnished to the Civil Rights Division for consideration.

Of additional interest is the fact that CBS filed a petition in state criminal court on 9/19/75, requesting that the firearms evidence in the MURKIN case be examined by an expert retained by them. On 9/26/75, the court denied the motion because judicial proceedings are still pending.

WALSHOT: In this case, Arthur Herman Bremer was convicted in state court of this assault and sentenced to 53 years imprisonment. His appeal went through state courts to the U. S. Supreme Court which refused to review his state conviction. Federal Civil Rights charges were then dismissed.

In response to inquiries, we have replied that FBI investigation of this matter disclosed no evidence of a conspiracy. We have furnished Jack Nelson, Chief of Washington Bureau of the "Los Angeles Times" answers to specific questions relating to the case, particularly with respect to alleged possible involvement of certain Watergate figures, namely, Gordon Liddy, Charles Colson and E. Howard Hunt, and circumstances surrounding the search and sealing off of Bremer's Milwaukee apartment. It is possible Mr. Rather may also pursue this avenue of inquiry.

ACTION: For information. Detailed write-ups attached covering these aspects.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

WALSHOT
(44-52576)

SHOOTING OF GOVERNOR WALLACE AND PROSECUTION OF BREMER:

Governor George C. Wallace was shot and seriously wounded by Arthur H. Bremer at approximately 4:00 p.m., May 15, 1972, after completing an address at a political rally at the Laurel Shopping Center, in Laurel, Maryland. Other victims of the shooting included Secret Service Agent Nicholas J. Zarvos (shot through the neck, bullet lodging in his jaw), Mrs. Dora Thompson (shot in the right calf), and Captain Eldred Cole Dothard, Alabama State Police (shot superficially in the lower abdomen).

We conducted an immediate intensive investigation, which included tracing Bremer's movements months before the shooting. This investigation concluded that Bremer had acted alone and was not part of a conspiracy.

Bremer was charged by a Federal Grand Jury with four counts: 1) Willfully injuring a Presidential candidate (Title 18, Section 245, U. S. Code (USC); 2) Assault of a Federal Officer (Title 18, Section 111, USC); 3) Transportation of a firearm in interstate commerce with the intent to commit a felony (Title 18, Section 924 (B), USC); and 4) Using a firearm to commit a felony (Title 18, Section 924 (C), USC).

He was also charged in a 24-count state indictment, the most serious charge being attempted murder.

On August 4, 1972, Bremer was found guilty in a Maryland state court on nine counts including: 1) Four counts of assault to commit murder; 2) Four counts of unlawfully using a handgun to commit a felony; and 3) One count of carrying a firearm in violation of Maryland law. Bremer received sentences on these counts totaling 63 years, to be served consecutively (later reduced to a 53-year term).

Bremer unsuccessfully appealed his conviction to the Maryland State Court of Appeals and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review his conviction. Thereafter, Federal charges were dismissed on 6/25/74 and Bremer continues to serve his sentence in the Maryland State Penitentiary.

Enc.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONSPIRACY THEORIES:

Every effort was made during our investigation to identify all persons in contact with Bremer prior to the shooting. There has been no indication that Watergate people or any others were involved with Bremer and the media has been so advised. However, the news media continues to advance speculations of a conspiracy theory. One effort has been an attempt to implicate the "Liddy - Hunt Watergate Group" in the shooting of Wallace by suggesting in July, 1973, that a CBS news film of the Wallace shooting depicted G. Gordon Liddy near Wallace. This film and other photographs were reviewed at the Bureau and it was concluded the man shown was not Liddy.

Questions were also raised regarding testimony by E. Howard Hunt before the Senate "Watergate" Select Committee that White House Counsel Charles Colson suggested Hunt search Bremer's apartment in Milwaukee following his attack on Wallace. We have interviewed both about this and Hunt maintains he was asked by Colson to go to Milwaukee and survey Bremer's apartment but he did not go. Colson stated he called Hunt on the evening of the shooting for the sole purpose of ascertaining Hunt's evaluation of Bremer as Hunt reportedly had a background in psychological evaluation. Both men denied any involvement and stated they do not know of any involvement by others at the White House or elsewhere. Regarding alleged FBI failure to promptly "seal off" Bremer's apartment, it was already occupied by a Secret Service Agent when our Agents reached the scene, but was later "sealed" when the White House ordered the FBI to assume complete control of the investigation.

The Director has previously responded to specific questions about our WALSHOT investigation and media speculations on conspiracy in a 1/21/75 letter to Jack Nelson, Chief, Washington Bureau, "Los Angeles Times." Since questions similar to those from Nelson may also be raised by the CBS representatives during discussions with the Director, there is attached for ready reference the 1/15/75 memorandum setting out questions from Nelson and our response.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MURKIN
(44-38861)

SHOOTING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY JAMES EARL RAY

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968.

At approximately 6:03 p.m., on 4/4/68, while standing on the second-floor balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed when struck by a single bullet. Minutes after the shooting, a white male, was observed as he dropped a bundle on the sidewalk near the scene of the crime and fled. Included in the abandoned articles was a rifle with a telescopic sight which was determined to have been purchased in Birmingham, Alabama, in March, 1968.

Investigation by FBI, Birmingham, revealed that on Friday, 3/29/68, a lone individual purchased a .243 caliber model 700 Remington rifle. The following day this individual returned this weapon, stated that his brother indicated that this weapon was not sufficient and instead purchased a Remington Model 760, .30-06 caliber rifle. This was the rifle recovered in Memphis immediately after the shooting of Dr. King.

Extensive investigation by this Bureau at that time determined the identity of the individual who purchased this weapon as Eric Starvo Galt.

On 4/16/68, the Attorney General authorized the filing of a complaint charging Galt with violation of T18, Section 241, for conspiring to interfere with the constitutional rights of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 4/17/68, Federal process was obtained and Galt was charged with conspiracy in that he and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy in Birmingham on 3/29/68, by reason of their purchase of the rifle later used in the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 4/19/68, the Attorney General announced that James Earl Ray had been identified through FBI identification records as the Eric Starvo Galt against whom a Federal complaint had been filed.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Ray was arrested on 6/8/68 in London and was extradited.

On March 10, 1969, in state court, Memphis, Tennessee, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of murder and received a 99 year sentence.

Federal process against Galt was dismissed on 12/2/71 by U. S. Commissioner Macy Taylor, Northern District of Alabama, based upon a motion filed by Ray's attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Ray appealed his conviction on grounds that he was not properly represented or counseled by his attorney at the time he entered his guilty plea in 1969. However, a Writ of Habeas Corpus was denied Ray in U. S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee, on 2/27/75.

An appeal of this judgment handed down in the Western District of Tennessee was filed on behalf of James Earl Ray in the U. S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, on 7/7/75. This appeal remains pending.

On 9/19/75, CBS filed a petition in state court, Tennessee, requesting access to ballistics evidence used in the Ray trial which evidence was to be used in connection with a forthcoming documentary on Martin Luther King, Jr.

This petition was denied 9/26/75 on the basis of the fact that Ray's appeal for a new trial remains pending in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Recently Mr. Reginald Eaves, Commissioner of Public Safety, Atlanta, Georgia, requested that the Department of Justice reopen this investigation based upon information received by Eaves from Robert Byron Watson. Watson had previously furnished this same information to the Secret Service and to the FBI in 1971, and at that time during FBI interview, admitted that the information concerning his knowledge of a conspiracy was fabricated. The statement of Watson and the results of interview were furnished to the Department in 1971 and again in 1975 when received by the FBI, Atlanta, from Mr. Eaves. The Department was also furnished a copy of the results of the investigation conducted by the Atlanta Police Department at the request of Mr. Eaves pertaining to information furnished by Watson. This investigation failed to corroborate any conspiracy theory.

Extensive investigation by this Bureau indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence of a conspiracy has ever been developed.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Informants

THIS INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM SECRET SERVICE [redacted] IN MARCH 1971 THIS INFO FURNISHED CRD 3/18/71

Robert Byron Watson

Byron Watson was described as born [redacted] at Atlanta, Georgia, and claimed to be a student at North Fulton High School in Atlanta. He was described as five feet eleven inches tall, 150 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He claimed to be a collector of rare coins. He stated he has a .38 caliber pistol in his home but claims he does not know how to use it and is not familiar with the use of explosives. He stated his deceased father, Robert W. Watson, was a deputy sheriff in Atlanta, Georgia, and was killed while transporting a prisoner on December 31, 1966. 764 Wildwood Road Atlanta, Ga. D.C.

At the time they appeared at the White House gate, they advised they felt the information they had to relate was so important they purchased $150 round-trip tickets from Atlanta to relate the information to the President.

Byron Watson stated that one week before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard plans being made for it in Atlanta by three men. He stated the discussion took place in a closed meeting at a place where he was then working. He stated he overheard one man say, "I am going to shoot that damn nigger bastard King in the head just like I did Kennedy." Another man in the meeting said, according to young Watson, "We will frame some jailbird like we did Oswald." He stated he and his mother discussed the meeting with attorney, Lynwood Maddox, Atlanta, Georgia. They later talked with Governor Lester Maddox and he told them the Federal Government would not be interested. The Watsons stated they would make the names of the participants in the meeting available only to the President and then would go to Salisburg, South Africa and stay with friends until the conspirators were apprehended. They stated the trip would cost approximately $5,000 and indicated the mother has that amount of money. Mrs. Watson indicated they would reveal the names of the participants of the meeting if the Government would sign an agreement to reimburse them for leaving the country.

Lillian Watson

Mrs. Lillian Marshelle Watson is described as a white female, born July 24, 1921, at Atlanta, Georgia. She is five feet four inches tall, 130 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Mrs. Robert W. Watson

764 Wildwood Road D.C.
Atlanta, Ga.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

The Watsons were subsequently interviewed in June, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, and at that time named Gene Purcelle, Lawrence Meier and Bayne Culley as being involved in the conspiracy. During that interview, Mrs. Watson asked for the Government to reward her or agree to her protection. Byron Watson stated he heard the plot at the Magellan Art Gallery, 3100 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia, one week prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was then fourteen years old. There were about nine men in the room where the meeting occurred.

Investigation in June, 1970, reflected that contact was made with Byron Watson's school counselor who stated that Watson has a very vivid imagination and frequently gets many things out of proportion. Following the investigation, an evaluation was made that Byron and Lillian Watson are "crackpots" and the relationship between them appeared to be a typical situation of a mother's dominance over a son.

On June 24, 1970, Mrs. Lillian Watson wrote a letter to the President of the United States complaining of the treatment received by her and her son when they appeared at the White House as mentioned above. The letter consisted primarily of hinting for a reward to her and her son for their information.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Lawrence Walter Meier, Federal Bureau of Investigation Number 823 121 B, was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17, 1965, on a warrant and was turned over to the Fulton County Probation Office. He was also arrested January 20, 1955, on a charge of forgery and was released to Federal authorities on February 8, 1955. He was incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute at Ashland, Kentucky, February 9, 1955, on a charge of forgery of a United States Treasury check.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Bayne S. Culley, Jr, is a white male, 248 Springdale Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, born [redacted] in Fulton County, Georgia. He was arrested April 9, 1946, for carrying a pistol without a license and received twelve months probation.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

He was also arrested December 18, 1950, for violation of the State Motor Vehicle law and the case was placed on the dead docket (not prosecuted).

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 7, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

Reference is made to Atlanta memorandum dated March 16, 1971.

On April 7, 1971, Robert Byron Watson was interviewed at his residence, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta. Watson was referred to the information he had previously furnished concerning his overhearing several individuals discussing the assassination of King and the assassination of Kennedy. Watson stated that the information was untrue. He stated that William S. Arnett, who worked at the Magellan Art Gallery in Atlanta, had defrauded his mother out of $50,000. He stated she has not gotten any of her money back from Arnett and he has not furnished her art objects which she paid him for. Watson stated he believed that Gene Purcell, Larry Mier and Bane Culley, whom he identified as persons present when the remarks about the assassination were made, had conspired with Arnett in defrauding his mother. He stated he felt that by telling this story he would receive a reward and his mother would thus be partially reimbursed.

Watson further noted that on December 22, 1970, he was arrested by the police department in Columbus, Georgia for burglary. He is presently out on $5,000 bond. He stated that he went to Columbus in order to obtain some art objects in the possession of William S. Arnett which rightfully belonged to his mother. He entered a shop owned by Arnett

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44-38861-3909

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

and was arrested while removing objects from the shop. He stated that after he was arrested he told his mother that the story about the alleged assassination plot was untrue and the reason that he had made it up.

On April 7, 1971, Mrs. Lillian Watson, mother of Robert Byron Watson, advised that Byron told her after his arrest that the story concerning the alleged assassination plot was untrue and that he told the story in order to get a reward and reimburse her for losses she incurred in connection with business dealings with William Arnett. She stated that she has retained attorney Frank Blankenship, who is Legal Aide to Lieutenant Governor Lester Maddox, to assist her in her suit against Arnett. He stated that after Byron told her the information he furnished was untrue she has not contacted any individual or organization she formerly furnished information to advise them that the information was not correct.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

10/6/75

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

11/6

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

my 9/19/75

9/30/75 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX an LHM
Cincinnati

xx F. EJM|jet

1

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/30/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to the Bureau, 9/15/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
2 - Cincinnati

DHV:skm
(6)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
September 30, 1975

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On September 30, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that the following additional entries were recorded in Docket Number 75-1795:

September 18, 1975	Opposition to Appellee's response
September 23, 1975	Motion of Appellant for leave to file brief in excess of seventy typewritten pages
September 23, 1975	Motion: Appellant's brief to October 4, 1975

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Gallagher

J. S. Peelman

10/2/75

1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
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1 - Mr. McDonough
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1 - Mr. Cochran

MURKIN (44-38861)
WALSHOT (44-52576)

MURKIN

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MURKIN: Our jurisdiction in this case was based on Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code, conspiracy to violate the civil rights of Martin Luther King, Jr., namely the right to travel interstate (King travelled to Memphis to engage in a demonstration scheduled for 4/8/68). He was killed 4/4/68.

James Earl Ray has an appeal pending before the 6th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on his guilty plea in state court for which he was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray in his appeal is claiming conflict of interest on part of his original attorneys resulting in inadequate representation. We have taken the position in this case from the outset that we could not discuss any details of the investigation until all judicial action has been completed.

It is noted that in a letter dated 7/23/75 to Mr. Ernest S. Leiser of CBS News, we advised him "in view of the appeal that is pending in this case, as well as the fact that a Federal civil rights charge remains outstanding against James Earl Ray, it will not be possible for us to furnish details of our investigation of the assassination of Dr. King." Birmingham Office has advised court records show the Federal process was dismissed 12/2/71 because the Department did not reply to motion for dismissal by Ray's attorney. Department did not advise us of the dismissal, however, they may not have been notified by U. S. Magistrate of final dismissal since dismissal was automatic after 10 days of filing of motion if no reply made. Mr. Leiser has been advised orally of dismissal which is being confirmed in writing.

Enclosures
LJM:bap (8)

CONTINUED - OVER

Tom Bresson, FOIA is preparing letter

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: HUNKIN - WALSHOT

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WALSHOT
(44-52576)

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Bremer unsuccessfully appealed his conviction to the Maryland State Court of Appeals and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review his conviction. Thereafter, Federal charges were dismissed on 6/25/74 and Bremer continues to serve his sentence in the Maryland State Penitentiary.

Enc.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CONSPIRACY THEORIES:

Every effort was made during our investigation to identify all persons in contact with Bremer prior to the shooting. There has been no indication that Watergate people or any others were involved with Bremer and the media has been so advised. However, the news media continues to advance speculations of a conspiracy theory. One effort has been an attempt to implicate the "Liddy - Hunt Watergate Group" in the shooting of Wallace by suggesting in July, 1973, that a CBS news film of the Wallace shooting depicted G. Gordon Liddy near Wallace. This film and other photographs were reviewed at the Bureau and it was concluded the man shown was not Liddy.

Questions were also raised regarding testimony by E. Howard Hunt before the Senate "Watergate" Select Committee that White House Counsel Charles Colson suggested Hunt search Bremer's apartment in Milwaukee following his attack on Wallace. We have interviewed both about this and Hunt maintains he was asked by Colson to go to Milwaukee and survey Bremer's apartment but he did not go. Colson stated he called Hunt on the evening of the shooting for the sole purpose of ascertaining Hunt's evaluation of Bremer as Hunt reportedly had a background in psychological evaluation. Both men denied any involvement and stated they do not know of any involvement by others at the White House or elsewhere. Regarding alleged FBI failure to promptly "seal off" Bremer's apartment, it was already occupied by a Secret Service Agent when our Agents reached the scene, but was later "sealed" when the White House ordered the FBI to assume complete control of the investigation.

The Director has previously responded to specific questions about our WALSHOT investigation and media speculations on conspiracy in a 1/21/75 letter to Jack Nelson, Chief, Washington Bureau, "Los Angeles Times." Since questions similar to those from Nelson may also be raised by the CBS representatives during discussions with the Director, there is attached for ready reference the 1/15/75 memorandum setting out questions from Nelson and our response.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1 - Mr. Cochran
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Stack

PLAINTEXT TELETYPE IMMEDIATE

TO SAC, MEMPHIS September 25, 1975

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THIS TELETYPE CONFIRMS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FURNISHED TO SPECIAL AGENT J. T. DONLAN OF YOUR OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1975. ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1975, TENN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JEWETT MILLER, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED LABORATORY DIVISION THAT THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM (CBS) FILED A PETITION SEPTEMBER 19, 1975, IN STATE CRIMINAL COURT REQUESTING THAT THE FIREARMS EVIDENCE IN MURKIN CASE, PREVIOUSLY EXAMINED IN FBI LABORATORY, BE REEXAMINED BY THEIR EXPERT, LOWELL W. BRADFORD, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA. THIS PETITION WAS TO BE HEARD IN CRIMINAL COURT, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 26, 1975. BRADFORD APPARENTLY FILED AFFIDAVIT INDICATING HIS OBSERVATIONS OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BULLET ALLEGEDLY REMOVED FROM KING HAD SUFFICIENT INDIVIDUAL MICROSCOPIC

BDB/mvs
(5)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS
RE: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MARKS TO ALLOW A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT HAD BEEN FIRED FROM EVIDENCE WEAPON. BRADFORD PLACED EIGHTY PERCENT PROBABILITY THAT A POSITIVE DETERMINATION COULD BE REACHED IF ALLOWED TO REEXAMINE THE EVIDENCE.

MEMPHIS SHOULD INSURE BUREAU INTEREST AS PROTECTED AND ADVISE BUREAU OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DETAILS RESULTING FROM HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1975.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ✓
Dep. AD Adm. —
Dep. AD Inv. ✓
Asst. Dirs.
Admin. —
Comp. Syst. —
Ext. Affs. ✓
Files & Com. ✓
Gen. Inv. —
Ident. —
Inspection —
Intell. —
Laboratory —
Legal Coun. ✓
Plan. & Eval. —
Spec. Inv. —
Training —
Telephone Rm. ✓
Director Sec'y —

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

DATE: 9/23/75

FROM : Legal Counsel

Pedua
Conlé
Mr Ormsby

SUBJECT: DAN RATHER, CORRESPONDENT
LES MIDGLEY, PRODUCER
CBS NEWS
REQUEST TO MEET THE DIRECTOR

Reference is made to memorandum of D. W. Moore, Jr. to Mr. Jenkins, dated 9/16/75, requesting Legal Counsel Division to prepare memorandum for benefit of the Director concerning proposed informal discussions with CBS News representatives on the topic of assassinations of President Kennedy, Senator Kennedy, Reverend Martin Luther King, and attempted assassination of Governor Wallace.

Legal Counsel agrees with External Affairs Division that a refusal to meet with CBS News representatives may well be misinterpreted and misrepresented but cautions a detailed discussion of above matters may be ill-advised. Our part in the investigation of these matters was thorough and complete. Nothing has come to our attention over the years indicating those investigations conducted by us should be reopened. Further, reopening of those investigations could be done only after seeking advise and counsel of and upon the direction of the Department of Justice.

On 9/27/75 the Privacy Act of 1974 will become effective. It regulates not only the obtaining of information, but access to the information obtained and dissemination and use of that information by the executive branch. While our criminal and intelligence files are exempt from public disclosure under this Act certain information pertaining to the assassination matters could (and has) been released from our files under the amended Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Regardless, the Privacy Act would seem to militate against other than a very general discussion of our part in the above investigations.

PCM:jd

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Cleveland
2 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Mogen

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Memorandum to Mr. J. B. Adams
Re: Dan Rather, Correspondent
Les Midgley, Producer
CBS News
Request To Meet The Director

Current media pronouncements to the effect congressional committees will reopen these investigations, or at least review the investigations conducted, is another consideration at this point. Even if speculative at this time, the fact such is being discussed publicly would dictate any discussions on above matters should be general in scope.

Finally, it is recognized public interest and controversy over the assassination of prominent public figures is a matter of continuing discussion for years after the tragedies occur. Over 110 years after the assassination of President Lincoln, some students of this event question whether John Wilkes Booth and his confederates identified in 1865 were not joined in the conspiracy by additional individuals. Accordingly, we can expect continued interest in our part in the investigations into the matters of interest to CBS News.

For the above reasons, we concur with External Affairs Division opinion that the Director should insist on limiting the discussion to such matters as jurisdiction, the circumstances under which the FBI entered into these cases and a very general discussion of our actual investigation. If the topic of reopening of these investigations is raised we must defer such a decision to the Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NR 007 ME PLAIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 29 1975

TELETYPE

6:24 P.M. NITEL SEPTEMBER 29, 1975 KJW

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

ATTENTION FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION UNIT

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELTYPE TO MEMPHIS, SEPT. 25, 1975.

ON SEPT. 26, 1975, A HEARING REGARDING A PETITION FILED BY CBS, INC., REQUESTING ACCESS TO BALLISTICS EVIDENCE USED IN CAPTIONED CASE WAS HEARD BY JUDGE WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS, DIVISION III, SHELBY COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. NEWTON P. ALLEN, ATTORNEY FOR CBS, ADVISED THAT THE EVIDENCE IS BEING SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A DOCUMENTARY ON THE ASSIGNATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, TO BE BROADCAST ON NOVEMBER 30, 1975. HE CONTINUED THAT THE FBI REPORT PREPARED BY MR. FRAYSER WAS INCONCLUSIVE BECAUSE HE REPORTED THAT DUE TO DISTORTIONS ON THE BULLET IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY THAT THE BULLET REMOVED FROM DR. KING'S BODY WAS FIRED FROM THE WEAPON FOUND AT THE SCENE. CBS BELIEVES THAT A FURTHER EXAMINATION BY AN EXPERT CAN THROW FURTHER LIGHT ON THIS EVIDENCE. HE BASED THE PETITION ON FACT CBS IS CONDUCTING AN INQUIRY INTO FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT,

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

INCLUDING THE JUDICIARY AND THAT THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROVIDES CBS AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA THE RIGHT TO INSPECT THIS EVIDENCE.

JEWETT MILLER, ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MEMPHIS, ARGUED THAT EXHIBITS IN THE COURSE OF A TRIAL ARE NOT AND DO NOT BECOME PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT FURTHER EXAMINATION AND PUBLIC REPORTS ON SUCH EXAMINATION WOULD PREJUDICE ANY NEW TRIAL GRANTED TO JAMES EARL RAY.

JUDGE WILLIAMS DENIED THE PETITION BECAUSE RAY'S APPEAL FOR A NEW TRIAL IS PENDING BEFORE U. S. SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE COMMENTED THAT THE BALLISTICS EVIDENCE IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD BUT IT IS PROPERTY SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND AT THE PROPER TIME FORENSIC TESTS MAY BE PERFORMED.

JEWETT MILLER ADVISED SA BURL F. JOHNSON THAT HE ANTICIPATES THAT CBS WILL APPEAL JUDGE WILLIAMS' RULING.

END.

HOLD

Orig - Lab/Hen

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Moore

9/26/75

J. H. Campbell

ERNEST S. LEISER
CBS NEWS
FORTHCOMING TV DOCUMENTARY
REGARDING MARTIN LUTHER KING CASE

BACKGROUND:

By memorandum dated September 19, 1975, I advised you that Ernest S. Leiser, a Senior Producer for CBS News, would arrive at FBIHQ with a filming crew on the morning of September 25 to film the scale model of the assassination site in the Martin Luther King murder case. My memorandum also noted that CBS correspondent Dan Rather undoubtedly would be on hand for the filming.

FILMING COMPLETED ON SEPTEMBER 25:

For information and record purposes, Messrs. Rather and Leiser arrived at FBIHQ on the morning of September 25 accompanied by Miss Esther Kartiganer (who is Associate Producer for the CBS documentary on the King murder) and a filming crew comprised of cameraman Larry Mitchell, assistant cameraman Robert MacDonald, electrician Frank Serlock, and soundman Paul Oppenheim -- all four of whom are from California.

These persons were most highly impressed with the scale model of the assassination site that was constructed following the murder of King in 1968 by the Exhibits Section. Dan Rather was filmed at length standing at the scale model explaining the State of Tennessee's version (which conforms with the FBI's) of how the murder occurred. He also mentioned that there are persons who do not agree that the fatal shot was fired from the bathroom of the rooming house -- and that these persons conjecture that the shot came from elsewhere in the area. At two separate points during this filming, Rather's commentary included remarks concerning the excellence of the Exhibits Section's scale model.

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Walsh
1 - Mr. Wannall

GWG:jam (9)

CONTINUED - OVER

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

In addition, the scale model also was filmed alone in considerable detail.

CBS'S TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR TELECASTING ASSASSINATION PROGRAMS:

In addition to the Martin Luther King case, CBS-TV also is filming documentary-type programs concerning the assassinations of John F. and Robert F. Kennedy and the attempted assassination of George Wallace. Mr. Leiser advised that CBS has scheduled these programs to be telecast on the following dates:

November 20, 1975 - The Kennedy Assassinations (2 hours)

November 30, 1975 - The King Assassination (1 hour)

December 13, 1975 - Attempted Assassination of George Wallace (1 hour)

Mr. Leiser emphasized that these telecast dates are tentative -- these programs still being in various stages of production.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information..

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Moore

9/19/75

J. H. Campbell

ERNEST S. LEISER
CBS NEWS
REQUEST TO FILM SCALE MODEL IN
MARTIN LUTHER KING MURDER CASE
10 A.M., SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

BACKGROUND:

By letter dated July 14, 1975, Ernest S. Leiser, a Senior Producer for CBS News, wrote Mr. Kelley to advise that he was working on a program concerning the assassinations of John F. and Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, as well as the attempted assassination of George Wallace. Leiser was aware that the Exhibits Section had constructed a scale model of the assassination site in the King case, and he requested permission to film that scale model.

Mr. Kelley replied to Leiser on July 23, telling him that you (Mr. Moore) would arrange for the filming of the scale model by CBS. Mr. Kelley's letter further noted that "in view of the appeal (by James Earl Ray) that is pending in this case, as well as the fact that a Federal civil rights charge remains outstanding against James Earl Ray, it will not be possible for us to furnish details of our investigation of the assassination of Dr. King."

CURRENT DEVELOPMENT:

Mary Marks of Mr. Leiser's office has telephoned from New York (212-765-4321, ext. 3218) to advise that CBS would like to film the scale model at FBIHQ at 10 a.m. next Thursday, September 25.

She said that Dan Rather, who will be CBS's principal correspondent on the assassination program, undoubtedly will be on hand during the filming here September 25.

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. J. P. Dunphy
1 - Mr. J. C. Farrington
1 - Mr. G. E. Malmfeldt
GWG:jam (10)

CONTINUED - OVER

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. J. H. Campbell to Mr. Moore Memorandum
RE: ERNEST S. LEISER, CBS NEWS, REQUEST TO FILM SCALE MODEL IN MARTIN LUTHER KING MURDER CASE, 10 A.M., 9/25/75

(In a separate communication to you (Mr. Moore) last month, Mr. Leiser also asked to examine some of the firearms-related material in the King case, including Laboratory photographs and findings regarding the bullet that killed Dr. King, test bullets from the rifle found near the Memphis rooming house, and the windowsill of the bathroom of the Memphis rooming house. For the reasons specified in the above-quoted portion of Mr. Kelley's July 23 letter to him, this request involving evidentiary data was declined; and Leiser then wrote a letter this month requesting the data under the Freedom of Information Act.)

RECOMMENDATION:

For information in connection with the September 25 filming by CBS of the scale model of the area in Memphis where the assassination of Martin Luther King occurred in April, 1968.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/19/75

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ATTENTION: MR. HORN

10/19

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

my 9/15/75

9/15/75 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX an LHM
Cincinnati

xx F. JCL/jet

1

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/15/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to the Bureau, 9/15/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
2 - Cincinnati

DHV:rbh
(6)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Post Office Box 1277,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201
September 15, 1975

Re: JAMES EARL RAY

On September 15, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI), that the following additional entries were recorded in Docket Number 75-1795:

September 12, 1975	Motion: Appellant's Brief to September 27, 1975 (Final extension to September 27, 1975, Granted)
September 12, 1975	Opposition to appellant's motion for an order directing court reporter to expedite Ray Case transcripts

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

BY 3 ATLANTANS

Accuser Sued In King Probe

By JIM GRAY

Three Atlanta men accused by a convicted narcotics dealer of complicity in the 1968 slaying of Martin Luther King Jr. and exonerated this summer by Atlanta police have filed a $3 million libel suit against their accuser and his mother.

Bayne S. Culley, Harold Eugene Purcell and Lawrence W. Meier claim in the Fulton County Superior Court action that 21-year-old Robert Byron Watson and his mother published "false, scandalous, malicious and defamatory" written statements they knew to be false.

Attached to the lawsuit are six pages allegedly written by young Watson. The narrative claims Watson overheard the men plotting the murder a week before it happened.

Watson's charges were turned over this summer to Atlanta Public Safety Commissioner Reginald Eaves by comedian Dick Gregory. Eaves announced "new evidence" and discounted FBI claims that it had already determined the allegations to be unfounded, but he conceded July 30 that Watson's claims "could not be substantiated."

The lawsuit claims Watson and his mother, Mrs. Robert Willard Watson, also falsely accused the three of international drug smuggling and racketeering.

The plaintiffs' reputations have been irreparably injured, the suit says, and they have been "exposed to public hatred, contempt and ridicule with and amongst their neighbors and other good and worthy citizens."

Each plaintiff demands $1 million in actual and punitive damages. Their lawyer swears in an affidavit that Watson is imprisoned at a federal prison in Kentucky after conviction for conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

The accusation by Watson claims he overheard the plot at Magellons artifact store in Buckhead. Watson claims he heard one man say he would shoot King in the head "and frame a jailbird just as they had Kennedy."

The Watson statement alleges that "assassins" and "syndicate" figures continually threatened him and his mother while they unsuccessfully tried to convince investigators of the truth of their charges.

"Ever since that time my mother and I have been threatened, victimized, and the objects of numerous dirty tricks by the federal government," the narrative claims.

Put with To McDonough

9/25

Assoc. Dir. ...
Dep.-A -Adm. ...
D- -Inv. ...
Asst. Dir.:
Admin. ...
Comp. Syst. ...
Ext. Affairs ...
Files & Com. ...
Gen. Inv. ...
Ident. ...
Inspection ...
Intell. ...
Laboratory ...
Plan. & Eval. ...
Spec. Inv. ...
Training ...
Legal Coun. ...
Telephone Rm. ...
Director Sec'y ...

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6-A
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL
& CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 9-1-75
Edition: Combined
Author: Jim Gray
Editor: Spalding/Murphy
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or
Classification: 44-
Submitting Office: ATLANTA

☐ Being Investigated

(2)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/15/75

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

9/25

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

my 9/12/75

9/11/75 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX an LHM
Cincinnati

xx F. EJM/jet

1

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/11/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
2 - Cincinnati

DHV:rbh
(6)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Post Office Box 1277,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45201
September 11, 1975

Re: JAMES EARL RAY

On September 10, 1975, Grace Keller, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI), that the following additional entry was recorded in Docket Number 75-1795:

September 4, 1975 — Motion of Appellant for an order directing court reporter to expedite case transcripts

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Murkin TJH

Rewrite of memo dated 9/8/75

Mr. Jenkins

9/10/75

D. W. Moore, Jr.

DAN RATHER, CORRESPONDENT
LES MIDGLEY, PRODUCER
CBS NEWS
REQUEST TO MEET THE DIRECTOR

Sanford Socolow, Director of News, CBS, has contacted my office to advise that Dan Rather and Les Midgley are producing four one-hour documentaries concerning the assassinations of President Kennedy, Senator Kennedy, the Reverend Martin Luther King and the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace.

Socolow advised that Rather and Midgley would like very much to informally discuss these matters with the Director for a period of time not to exceed one hour. Socolow stated that this meeting would be completely off the record and that there would be no cameras. The purpose of the meeting would be for background only. He indicated that both Rather and Midgley have already met with Director Colby of the CIA on these matters and are most desirous of meeting with the Director if at all possible.

In view of the recent attempted assassination on President Ford and the current extensive media reporting relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and Senator Kennedy, it is not believed the Bureau should enter into a discussion at this time even off the record.

It should be noted that we are presently cooperating with Dan Rather and CBS in connection with a documentary concerning the FBI which is tentatively scheduled to be aired in November.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Director not meet with Rather and Midgley for an off the record interview in connection with this matter.

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr Gallagher
1 - Mr Mintz
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Malmfeldt
1 - Mr. Campbell
1 - Telephone Room
1 - Mrs. Metcalf

TJH:asg
(9)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/12/75

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ATTENTION: MR. HORN

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

my 9/8/75

9/8/75 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Atlanta an LHM

x F. JCH:jet

1

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 9/8/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
(ATTN: SUPV. JACK LAWN, ROOM 5078
JEH, AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (C)

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta, 8/13/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM, prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

One copy of the above LHM is being furnished to the Memphis Division for information.

For the information of the Bureau and Memphis, the conclusion of the Atlanta Police Department Data supplied by ROBERT BYRON WATSON, based strictly upon evaluation of all investigative findings is that none of the allegations of WATSON can be supported and that the Atlanta Police Department believes that there is no substance to WATSON's allegations.

(4) Bureau (Enc. 4)
1-Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 1) (Info)
2-Atlanta
TJW:cw
(7)

CARBON COPY

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 9/8/75

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(Type in plaintext or code)

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1-Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 1) (Info)
2-Atlanta
TJW:cw
(7)

CARBON COPY

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9/8/75

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL
(Priority)

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(4) Bureau (Enc. 4)
1-Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 1) (Info)
2-Atlanta
TJW:cw
(7)

CARBON COPY

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

September 8, 1975

MURKIN

On August 22, 1975, Special Agent in Charge, James J. Dunn, Jr., of the Atlanta Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), contacted A. Reginald Eaves, Public Safety Director, Atlanta, Georgia Police Department, and referred Mr. Eaves to his letter to the Attorney General, dated July 30, 1975, in which Mr. Eaves volunteered to furnish a copy of recent investigation conducted by the Atlanta Police Department, regarding data furnished to the Police Department by Robert Byron Watson, pertaining to the murder of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Dunn requested that the FBI in Atlanta be furnished a copy of the Atlanta Police Department Report. This report will be forwarded through FBI Headquarters to the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Eaves advised a copy of the investigation would be made available through Captain K. E. Burnette, Intelligence Section, Bureau of Police Services, Atlanta, Georgia.

On August 29, 1975, Captain K. E. Burnette, Intelligence Section, Bureau of Police Services, furnished a copy of the Atlanta Police Department Investigation, which is attached.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MURKIN

At the time of contact with Mr. Eaves on August 22, 1975, by Special Agent in Charge Dunn, Mr. Eaves advised he had directed a letter to the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., requesting information pertaining to the murder of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Eaves advised that as of that time, a reply had not been received by him from the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. He was advised that this would be brought to the attention of the U. S. Department of Justice at the time when the results of the investigation conducted by the Atlanta Police Department, were furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice.

Also attached is a newspaper clipping from the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Page 6, Section A, dated September 1, 1975, and a clipping from "The Militant" Newspaper, Page 29, dated September 5, 1975.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED CONSPIRACY

TO ASSASSINATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

On June 20, 1975, Detectives Sullivan, Mapp, and Williamson of the Intelligence Section were assigned by Section Commander Captain K. E. Burnette to investigate information recently received by Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves, which related to the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This information, which specifically alleged the existence of an Atlanta-based conspiracy in the death of Dr. King, was incorporated into a forty-two (42) page document, the bulk of which consisted of drug-related data.

The author of the entire document was self-identified as Robert Byron Watson, a twenty-one year old white male and a native of the Atlanta area. Preliminary inquiries established that Watson had an arrest record which included a 1972 arrest and conviction for importation of heroin, a subsequent arrest for Possession of Marijuana and a January 1975 arrest and subsequent conviction for Distribution of Cocaine. Watson is presently incarcerated in the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Kentucky, and is now serving a five-year sentence on the latter charge.

As the conspiracy allegations comprised only a minor portion of the originator's lengthy statement, immediate investigative emphasis was placed upon determining the reliability of the drug-related information as an elementary factor in evaluating the source's total credibility. Towards this end, two investigators were assigned to this aspect of the investigation. A comprehensive report of their findings is attached as an appendage to this investigative summary; however, for purposes of clarity, certain pertinent facts obtained through their efforts require elaboration in the body of this report. In general, Watson's involvement in the narcotics traffic and his

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familiarity with many of the illegal drug traffickers referenced in his statement can be documented through information on file with various local and federal narcotics enforcement agencies. Law enforcement records verify the subject's initial narcotics involvement as dating from July 26, 1972, when Watson and his mother were arrested for Importation of Heroin after quantities of that substance were discovered by federal agents in a magazine mailed to Watson at his mother's address from sources in the far east. However, while the subject's activities as a narcotics trafficer can be documented from the above date until his most recent arrest in January of 1975, investigation failed to substantiate Watson's claims, emphasized repeatedly throughout his statement, that he was an innocent victim of corrupt law enforcement officials who framed him because of his knowledge of their illegal activities. More specifically, Watson's charges that "federal gangsters" conspired to frame him in 1972 to silence him about the King and Kennedy conspiracies and again in January of 1975 to discredit his information regarding an international narcotics smuggling operation perpetrated by DEA agents were found to be totally erroneous. Investigation did establish that Watson, after his release from the Federal Youth Center in Ashland, Kentucky, in March of 1974, did approach the local office of the Drug Enforcement Administration about a position as a special employee working undercover to set up drug deals. DEA authorities relate that, while they were prohibited from utilizing Watson as an undercover operative by the conditions of his parole, he did, on that occasion, furnish the agency with cursory data relating to the local narcotics traffic. From this point, Watson's contact with the DEA was restricted to his narcotics transactions with several undercover DEA operatives whom, until his January 1975 arrest, he did not know were employees of that agency. While information obtained indicates that the

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above referenced individuals did utilize Watson for his narcotics contacts, there is no evidence to support Watson's allegations that these same authorities framed him in his last arrest to conceal their own involvement in an international smuggling ring.

However, exclusive of Watson's claims that he had been the victim of a drug-related conspiracy, the general reliability of the narcotics information submitted was deemed sufficient to merit a comprehensive investigation into his allegations of an Atlanta-based conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Investigators then began to conduct a series of interviews with individuals whose familiarity with Watson and/or the subjects whom he specifically named as conspiring to kill Dr. King could assist us in determining the credibility of the conspiracy-related information. For the purpose of this section of the summary, all of these interviews will be reported in a chronological format, and the collective results will then be analyzed in the general conclusions following the investigative summary.

PRELIMINARY ATLANTA INTERVIEWS

As a preparatory step in this facet of the investigation, Intelligence detectives, on June 24, 1975, visited the Atlanta office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where we requested agents to check the names of Robert Byron Watson and also of Jerry Adams, Larry Meier, Eugene Purcell, and Bayne Culley (the four alleged conspirators) through the FBI indices. The Bureau reported that it had no record of any of the above individuals in the regular filing system. However, subsequent conversations with Bureau personnel revealed that the local FBI office had received information in 1971 from Robert Byron Watson which, in all details relating to the King conspiracy, was essentially a

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